

Classical conformal blocks from TBA for the elliptic Calogero-Moser system

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ABSTRACT: The so-called Poghossian identities connecting the toric and spherical blocks, the AGT relation on the torus and the Nekrasov-Shatashvili formula for the elliptic Calogero-Moser Yang's (eCMY) functional are used to derive certain expressions for the classical 4-point block on the sphere. The main motivation for this line of research is the longstanding open problem of uniformization of the 4-punctured Riemann sphere, where the 4-point classical block plays a crucial role. It is found that the obtained representation for certain 4-point classical blocks implies the relation between the accessory parameter of the Fuchsian uniformization of the 4-punctured sphere and the eCMY functional. Additionally, a relation between the 4-point classical block and the $N_f = 4$, $SU(2)$ twisted superpotential is found and further used to re-derive the instanton sector of the Seiberg-Witten prepotential of the $N_f = 4$, $SU(2)$ supersymmetric gauge theory from the classical block.

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1. Introduction

Let $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ be the Riemann surface with genus g and a set of points z_1, \dots, z_n removed from it. The basic objects of any two-dimensional conformal field theory (2dCFT) living on \mathcal{C}_g [1, 2] are the n -point correlation functions of primary vertex operators defined on $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$. Given a marking¹ σ of the Riemann surface $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ any correlation function can be factorized according to the pattern given by a pants decomposition of $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ and written as a sum (or an integral for theories with a continuous spectrum) which includes the terms consisting of holomorphic and anti-holomorphic conformal blocks times the 3-point functions of the model for each pair of pants. The Virasoro conformal block $\mathcal{F}_{c,\alpha}^{(\sigma)}[\beta](z)$ on $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$, where $\alpha \equiv (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{3g-3+n})$, $\beta \equiv (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$ depends on the cross ratios of the vertex operators locations denoted symbolically by z and on the $3g - 3 + n$ intermediate conformal weights $\Delta_{\alpha_i} = \alpha_i(Q - \alpha_i)$. Moreover, it depends on the n external conformal weights $\Delta_{\beta_a} = \beta_a(Q - \beta_a)$ and on the central charge c which can be parameterized as follows $c = 1 + 6Q^2$ with

$$Q = b + b^{-1}. \quad (1.1)$$

Conformal blocks are fully determined by the underlying conformal symmetry. These functions possess an interesting, although not yet completely understood analytic structure. In general, they can be expressed only as a formal power series and no closed formula is known for its coefficients. Among the issues concerning conformal blocks which are still not fully understood there is the problem of their *semiclassical limit*. This is the limit in which all parameters of the conformal blocks tend to infinity in such a way that their ratios

¹A marking of the Riemann surface $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ (for definition see [3]) is a pants decomposition of $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ together with the corresponding trivalent graph.

are fixed. It is commonly believed that such limit exists and the conformal blocks behave in this limit exponentially with respect to z . This last has been however verified explicitly only in the case of the conformal block on the 4-punctured sphere. Indeed, the existence of the semiclassical limit of the 4-point Liouville correlation function and the projection of this correlation function onto an appropriate intermediate conformal family imply that the semiclassical limit of the 4-point conformal block [1] with “heavy” weights $\Delta = b^{-2}\delta$, $\Delta_i = b^{-2}\delta_i$, with $\delta, \delta_i = \mathcal{O}(1)$ has the following form:

$$\mathcal{F}_{c=1+6Q^2, \Delta} \left[\frac{\Delta_3}{\Delta_4} \frac{\Delta_2}{\Delta_1} \right] (x) \xrightarrow{b \rightarrow 0} \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{b^2} f_\delta \left[\frac{\delta_3}{\delta_4} \frac{\delta_2}{\delta_1} \right] (x) \right\}. \quad (1.2)$$

The function $f_\delta \left[\frac{\delta_3}{\delta_4} \frac{\delta_2}{\delta_1} \right] (x)$ is called the *classical conformal block* [4] or with some abuse of terms, the “classical action” [5, 6]. The existence of the semiclassical limit (1.2) has been postulated first in [5, 6] where it has been pointed out that the classical block is related to a certain monodromy problem of a null vector decoupling equation in a similar way in which the classical Liouville action is related to the Fuchsian uniformization. This relation has been further used to derive the $\Delta \rightarrow \infty$ limit of the 4-point conformal block and its expansion in powers of the so-called elliptic variable.

Recently, a considerable progress in the theory of conformal blocks and their applications has been achieved. This is mainly due to the discovery of the so-called AGT correspondence by Alday, Gaiotto and Tachikawa in 2009 [7]. The AGT correspondence states that the Liouville field theory (LFT) correlators on $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ can be identified with the partition functions $Z_{\mathcal{T}_{g,n}}^{(\sigma)}$ of a class $\mathcal{T}_{g,n}$ (cf.[8]) of four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supersymmetric SU(2) quiver gauge theories²:

$$\left\langle \prod_{a=1}^n v_{\beta_a} \right\rangle_{\mathcal{C}_{g,n}}^{\text{LFT}} = Z_{\mathcal{T}_{g,n}}^{(\sigma)}. \quad (1.3)$$

Let us describe the AGT proposal in more details. As well as the correlators of the Liouville theory, also the partition functions $Z_{\mathcal{T}_{g,n}}^{(\sigma)}$ have an integral representation for a fixed σ . Indeed, $Z_{\mathcal{T}_{g,n}}^{(\sigma)}$ can be written as the integral over the holomorphic and anti-holomorphic Nekrasov partition functions [9, 10]:

$$Z_{\mathcal{T}_{g,n}}^{(\sigma)} = \int [da] Z_{\text{Nekrasov}}^{(\sigma)} \overline{Z}_{\text{Nekrasov}}^{(\sigma)}, \quad (1.4)$$

where $[da]$ is an appropriate measure. The Nekrasov partition function³ $Z_{\text{Nekrasov}}(\cdot; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ appearing in (1.4) is a product of the three factors:

$$Z_{\text{Nekrasov}} = Z_{\text{class}} Z_{1\text{-loop}} Z_{\text{inst}}. \quad (1.5)$$

²Notice, that the Liouville theory correlators are modular [11] and crossing symmetric [12–15] and do not depend on the choice of pants decomposition. This strongly suggests the S-duality invariance of the gauge theory partition functions.

³The dot in the first slot symbolizes the dependence on the gauge theory parameters, in general these are: (i) the $3g - 3 + n$ gluing parameters $\mathbf{q} = (q_i = \exp 2\pi\tau_i)_{i=1, \dots, 3g-3+n}$ associated with the pants decomposition, where $\tau_i = \theta_i/2\pi + 4\pi i/g_i^2$ are complexified gauge couplings; (ii) the $3g - 3 + n$ vacuum expectation values (vev’s) of the scalar fields in the vector multiplets $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_{3g-3+n})$; (iii) the n mass parameters $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_n)$. Finally, ϵ_1, ϵ_2 are the so-called complex Ω -background parameters [54–56].

The first two factors $\mathcal{Z}_{\text{class}} \mathcal{Z}_{1\text{-loop}} \equiv \mathcal{Z}_{\text{pert}}$ describe the contribution coming from perturbative calculations. Supersymmetry implies that there are contributions to $\mathcal{Z}_{\text{pert}}$ only at tree- ($\mathcal{Z}_{\text{class}}$) and 1-loop-level ($\mathcal{Z}_{1\text{-loop}}$). $\mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}$ is the instanton contribution. A significant (Liouville independent, “chiral”) part of the AGT conjecture is an exact correspondence between the Virasoro conformal blocks $\mathcal{F}_{c,\alpha}^{(\sigma)}[\beta](z)$ on $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ and the instanton sectors $\mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}$ of the Nekrasov partition functions of the gauge theories $\mathcal{T}_{g,n}$.

The AGT conjecture was actively studied starting from the moment of its discovery. In particular, various checks [16, 17] and proofs [18–20] in special cases have been investigated. Moreover, there have been attempts to explain that conjecture from the points of view of M -theory [21, 22] and topological string theory [23]. The direct consequences of AGT relations have been studied for instance in [24–29]. Soon the AGT hypothesis has been extended to the $\text{SU}(N)$ -gauge theories/ W_N 2dCFT correspondence [30–32]. Extensions to asymptotically free theories [33–35] and five-dimensional gauge theory [36–38] have been analyzed too. Additionally, this duality paved the way for new results in the theory of loop and surface operators [39–43] and has appeared in contexts related to matrix models [44–49]. As previously mentioned, the studies of the AGT duality have inspired several progresses inside pure 2dCFT, namely in the theory of conformal blocks [24, 50–52] as well as in Liouville theory [11].

One of the immediate implications of the AGT proposal is the possibility of a derivation of the instanton contributions to the so-called Seiberg-Witten *prepotentials* [53] from conformal blocks. Let us recall that originally the Nekrasov partition functions have been introduced to calculate the low energy effective gauge theories prepotential $F(\cdot; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$. For $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$, the Nekrasov partition functions behave as follows:

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{Nekrasov}}(\cdot; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \longrightarrow \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2} F(\cdot; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \right\}, \quad (1.6)$$

where $F(\cdot; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ becomes the Seiberg-Witten prepotential $F(\cdot)$ in the limit $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$.

The Nekrasov functions lead also to an interesting application when one of the parameters ϵ_1, ϵ_2 is non-zero. Recently, the limit $\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$ (while ϵ_1 is kept finite) has been discussed in [57]. There has been observed that in this limit the Nekrasov partition functions behave as

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{Nekrasov}}(\cdot; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \xrightarrow{\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0} \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{\epsilon_2} \mathcal{W}(\cdot; \epsilon_1) \right\}, \quad (1.7)$$

where $\mathcal{W}(\cdot; \epsilon_1) = \mathcal{W}_{\text{pert}}(\cdot; \epsilon_1) + \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}(\cdot; \epsilon_1)$ is the so-called effective *twisted superpotential* of the corresponding two-dimensional gauge theories restricted to the two-dimensional Ω -background. It is not difficult to realize, looking at particular examples of AGT relations (see next Section), that the limit $\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$ should correspond to the classical limit $b \rightarrow 0$ of the conformal blocks.

On the other hand, twisted superpotentials play also a prominent role in another correspondence, the so-called Bethe/gauge correspondence [57–59] which maps supersymmetric vacua of the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories to Bethe states of quantum integrable systems (QIS’s). A result of that duality is that twisted superpotentials are identified with Yang’s functionals [60] which describe a spectrum of QIS’s. For instance, in [57] Nekrasov and Shatashvili have

found that the twisted superpotential $\mathcal{W}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U(N)}}(q, \mathbf{a}, m; \epsilon_1)$ serves as Yang's functional for the N-particle elliptic Calogero-Moser (eCM) system and for the periodic Toda chain (pToda). Hence, by combining the AGT duality and the Bethe/gauge correspondence it is possible to link classical blocks to Yang's functionals⁴.

The main aim of the present work is to exploit this link to shed some light on the classical block on the sphere. The motivation for this line of research is the longstanding open problem of the uniformization of the 4-punctured sphere, where the knowledge of the 4-point classical block plays a key role.

The structure of the paper is as follows. In Section 2, quantum blocks on the torus and sphere and its so-called elliptic representations are defined. Afterwards, the classical block on the sphere is introduced and the relation between it and the instanton superpotential of the $\text{SU}(2)$ (or $\text{U}(2)$), $N_f = 4$ theory is written down. This last relation is further used to re-derive in a consistent way the instanton contributions to the Seiberg-Witten prepotential of the $\text{SU}(2)$ (or $\text{U}(2)$), $N_f = 4$ theory starting from the classical block.

In Section 3, using the so-called Poghossian identities, the AGT relation on the torus and the Nekrasov-Shatashvili results from [57], the expressions for certain families of classical blocks on the sphere are derived. It turns out that the most non-trivial parts of the classical blocks are encoded in the closed formula of the 2-particle eCM Yang's functional [57].

In Section 4, the connection between classical Liouville theory, semiclassical limit of quantum DOZZ Liouville theory and the problem of uniformization of the 4-punctured Riemann sphere is recalled. The role of the classical block on the sphere in that context is clarified. Then, the expressions of certain classical blocks derived in Section 3 are applied to calculate the accessory parameter of the Fuchsian uniformization of the 4-punctured sphere. The relation between the accessory parameter and the 2-particle eCM Yang's functional is found.

Finally, Section 5 contains conclusions and a discussion of the open problems and possible extensions of the present work.

2. Classical AGT relation on a sphere

2.1 Quantum blocks on torus and sphere

Let $\hat{q} = e^{2\pi i\tau}$ be the elliptic variable on the torus with modular parameter τ and x be the moduli of the 4-punctured sphere. The quantum conformal blocks on the 1-punctured torus and on the 4-punctured sphere are defined as formal power series:

$$\mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta}}(q) = q^{\Delta - \frac{c}{24}} \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta},n} q^n \right), \quad (2.1)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta},n} = \sum_{n=|I|=|J|} \langle \nu_{\Delta,I}, V_{\tilde{\Delta}}(1) \nu_{\Delta,J} \rangle \left[G_{c,\Delta} \right]^{IJ}, \quad (2.2)$$

⁴Recently, such duality has been established in [61] without employing the AGT conjecture.

and

$$\mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) = x^{\Delta - \Delta_2 - \Delta_1} \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] x^n \right), \quad (2.3)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] = \sum_{n=|I|=|J|} \langle \nu_{\Delta_4}, V_{\Delta_3}(1) \nu_{\Delta,I} \rangle \left[G_{c,\Delta} \right]^{IJ} \langle \nu_{\Delta,J}, V_{\Delta_2}(1) \nu_{\Delta_1} \rangle \quad (2.4)$$

respectively. In the above equations $\left[G_{c,\Delta} \right]^{IJ}$ is the inverse of the Gram matrix $\left[G_{c,\Delta} \right]_{IJ} = \langle \nu_{\Delta,I}, \nu_{\Delta,J} \rangle$ of the standard symmetric bilinear form in the Verma module $\mathcal{V}_{\Delta} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{V}_{\Delta}^n$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_{\Delta}^n = \text{Span} \Big\{ & \nu_{\Delta,I}^n = L_{-I} \nu_{\Delta} = L_{-i_k} \dots L_{-i_2} L_{-i_1} \nu_{\Delta} : \\ & I = (i_k \geq \dots \geq i_1 \geq 1) \text{ an ordered set of positive integers} \\ & \text{of the length } |I| \equiv i_1 + \dots + i_k = n \Big\}. \end{aligned}$$

The operator V_{Δ} in the matrix elements is the normalized primary chiral vertex operator acting between the Verma modules

$$\langle \nu_{\Delta_i}, V_{\Delta_j}(z) \nu_{\Delta_k} \rangle = z^{\Delta_i - \Delta_j - \Delta_k}.$$

In order to calculate the matrix elements in (2.2), (2.4) it is enough to know the covariance properties of the primary chiral vertex operator with respect to the Virasoro algebra:

$$[L_n, V_{\Delta}(z)] = z^n \left(z \frac{d}{dz} + (n+1)\Delta \right) V_{\Delta}(z), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

As the dimension of \mathcal{V}_{Δ}^n grows rapidly with n , the calculations of conformal block coefficients by inverting the Gram matrices become very laborious for higher orders. A more efficient method based on recurrence relations for the coefficients can be used [6, 18, 24, 52, 62].

It is convenient to introduce the so-called elliptic conformal blocks. The 1-point elliptic block $\mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta}}(\hat{q})$ on the torus with modular parameter τ and elliptic variable $\hat{q} = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ is defined by [18, 52]:

$$\mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta}}(\hat{q}) = \hat{q}^{\frac{c-1}{24} - \Delta} \eta(\hat{q}) \mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta}}(\hat{q}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hat{q}^n \mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta},n}, \quad (2.5)$$

where $\eta(\hat{q}) = \hat{q}^{\frac{1}{24}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - \hat{q}^n)$ is the Dedekind eta function.

The 4-point elliptic block on the sphere $\mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q)$, where

$$q \equiv q(x) = e^{-\pi \frac{K(1-x)}{K(x)}}, \quad K(x) = \int_0^1 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{(1-t^2)(1-xt^2)}} \quad (2.6)$$

is defined by [6]

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) &= x^{\frac{c-1}{24} - \Delta_1 - \Delta_2} (1-x)^{\frac{c-1}{24} - \Delta_2 - \Delta_3} \\ &\times \theta_3(q)^{\frac{c-1}{2} - 4(\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 + \Delta_3 + \Delta_4)} (16q)^{\Delta - \frac{c-1}{24}} \mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q), \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

where

$$\mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta}\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right](q) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (16q)^n \mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta}^n\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right]. \quad (2.8)$$

The coefficients in (2.8) are uniquely determined by the recursion relation⁵:

$$\mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta}^n\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right] = \sum_{\substack{r \geq 1 \ s \geq 1 \\ n \geq rs \geq 1}} \frac{R_c^{rs}\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right]}{\Delta - \Delta_{rs}(c)} \mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta_{rs}(c)+rs}^{n-rs}\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right], \quad n > 0. \quad (2.9)$$

The toric and spherical blocks appear in the best known examples of the “chiral” AGT relations.

1. $\mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta}}(\hat{q})$ is identified with the Nekrasov instanton partition function of the $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$, $SU(2)$ gauge theory (which equals to $[\mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\text{U}(1)}]^{-1} \times \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\text{U}(2)}$ as it is written in the second line of the equation below):

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{q}^{\frac{c}{24}-\Delta} \mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^{\tilde{\Delta}}(\hat{q}) &= \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, SU(2)}(\hat{q}, a, m; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \\ &= \hat{\eta}(\hat{q})^{1-2\tilde{\Delta}} \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, U(2)}(\hat{q}, a, m; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2). \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

In eq. (2.10) $\hat{\eta}(\hat{q}) \equiv \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - \hat{q}^n)$ and the torus block parameters, namely the external conformal weight $\tilde{\Delta}$, the intermediate weight Δ and the Virasoro central charge c can be expressed in terms of the $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$, $SU(2)$ super-Yang-Mills theory parameters as follows

$$\tilde{\Delta} = -\frac{m(m + \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}, \quad \Delta = \frac{(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)^2 - 4a^2}{4\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}, \quad c = 1 + 6\frac{(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)^2}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2} \equiv 1 + 6Q^2. \quad (2.11)$$

In eq. (2.11) m is the mass of the adjoint hypermultiplet, a is the vacuum expectation value (vev) of the complex scalar of the gauge multiplet and ϵ_1, ϵ_2 are Ω -background parameters.

2. $\mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right](x)$ is related to the Nekrasov instanton partition function of the $\mathcal{N} = 2$, $SU(2)$ (or $U(2)$) super-Yang-Mills theory with four flavors ($N_f = 4$):

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta} \mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right](x) &= \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, SU(2)}(x, a, \mu_i; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \\ &= (1 - x)^{-\frac{(\mu_1 + \mu_2)(\mu_3 + \mu_4)}{2\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}} \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, U(2)}(x, a, \mu_i; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2). \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

In eq. (2.12) the central charge c , the intermediate weight Δ and the four external weights Δ_i are related to the vev a , the masses μ_1, \dots, μ_4 of the four hypermultiplets

⁵Here, for the central charge parameterized as $c = 1 + 6(b + \frac{1}{b})^2 \equiv 1 + 6Q^2$ the degenerate conformal weights are of the form $\Delta_{rs}(c) = \frac{1-r^2}{4}b^2 + \frac{1-rs}{2} + \frac{1-s^2}{4}\frac{1}{b^2}$. The explicit form of the coefficients $R_c^{rs}\left[\begin{smallmatrix}\Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1\end{smallmatrix}\right]$ is known [63].

and the Ω -background parameters ϵ_1, ϵ_2 respectively by the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned} c &= 1 + 6 \frac{(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)^2}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2} \equiv 1 + 6Q^2, & \Delta &= \frac{(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)^2 - 4a^2}{4\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}, \\ \Delta_1 &= \frac{\frac{1}{4}(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)^2 - \frac{1}{4}(\mu_1 - \mu_2)^2}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}, & \Delta_2 &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\mu_1 + \mu_2)(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 - \frac{1}{2}(\mu_1 + \mu_2))}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}, \\ \Delta_3 &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}(\mu_3 + \mu_4)(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 - \frac{1}{2}(\mu_3 + \mu_4))}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}, & \Delta_4 &= \frac{\frac{1}{4}(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)^2 - \frac{1}{4}(\mu_3 - \mu_4)^2}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

The identities (2.10) and (2.12) are understood as equalities between the coefficients of the expansions of both sides in powers of \hat{q} and x respectively⁶. In both the above examples the background charge is given by

$$Q = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1}} + \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2}}.$$

In order to be consistent with the standard parametrization (1.1) we shall set:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1}} = b. \quad (2.14)$$

2.2 Seiberg-Witten prepotential from the classical 4-point block

The asymptotic behavior (1.2) implies the following expansion of the 4-point classical block:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) &= (\delta - \delta_1 - \delta_2) \log x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^n \mathbf{f}_\delta^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] \\ &= (\delta - \delta_1 - \delta_2) \log x + \frac{(\delta + \delta_3 - \delta_4)(\delta + \delta_2 - \delta_1)}{2\delta} x + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

The coefficients $\mathbf{f}_\delta^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right]$ in (2.15) are calculated directly from the limit (1.2) and the power expansion of the quantum block:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^n \mathbf{f}_\delta^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] &= \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \log \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{F}_{c,\Delta}^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] x^n \right) \\ &= \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \log \left(1 + \frac{(\Delta + \Delta_3 - \Delta_4)(\Delta + \Delta_2 - \Delta_1)}{2\Delta} x + \dots \right), \end{aligned}$$

where on the r.h.s. one first expands the logarithm into power series and then the limit is taken of each term separately.

On the other hand the representation (2.7) and the asymptotic behavior (1.2) imply another representation for the classical 4-point block on the sphere:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) &= \left(\frac{1}{4} - \delta_1 - \delta_2 \right) \log x + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \delta_2 - \delta_3 \right) \log(1-x) \\ &\quad + (3 - 4(\delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3 + \delta_4)) \log(\theta_3(q(x))) \\ &\quad + \left(\delta - \frac{1}{4} \right) \log(16q(x)) + \mathbf{h}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q(x)), \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

⁶For definition of the expansion coefficients of $\mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}$ and $\mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}_f=4, \text{U}(2)}$ see [9, 57].

where the elliptic classical block $\mathbf{h}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q)$ is defined by the expansion

$$\mathbf{h}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (16q)^n \mathbf{h}_\delta^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right]. \quad (2.17)$$

The coefficients $\mathbf{h}_\delta^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right]$ are obtained step by step from the limit (1.2):

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (16q)^n \mathbf{h}_\delta^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] = \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \log \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (16q)^n \mathcal{H}_{c,\Delta}^n \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] \right). \quad (2.18)$$

As mentioned in the Introduction classical blocks correspond to twisted superpotentials. In the case under consideration, joining together (1.2), (1.7), (2.12) and (2.14), one gets

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta_1 + \delta_2 - \delta) \log x + \mathbf{f}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i; \epsilon_1) \\ &= \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{U}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i; \epsilon_1) - \frac{(\mu_1 + \mu_2)(\mu_3 + \mu_4)}{2\epsilon_1^2} \log(1 - x), \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

where the classical weights are defined by $\delta \equiv \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \Delta = \lim_{\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0} \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1} \Delta$ and $\delta_i \equiv \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \Delta_i = \lim_{\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0} \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1} \Delta_i$. Explicitly, they read as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \delta &= \frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}, & \delta_1 &= \frac{1}{4} - \frac{(\mu_1 - \mu_2)^2}{4\epsilon_1^2}, & \delta_2 &= \frac{\mu_1 + \mu_2}{2\epsilon_1} - \frac{(\mu_1 + \mu_2)^2}{4\epsilon_1^2}, \\ \delta_3 &= \frac{\mu_3 + \mu_4}{2\epsilon_1} - \frac{(\mu_3 + \mu_4)^2}{4\epsilon_1^2}, & \delta_4 &= \frac{1}{4} - \frac{(\mu_3 - \mu_4)^2}{4\epsilon_1^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

The relation (2.19) gives rise to a self-consistent method to calculate from the classical block the instanton prepotential for the $\text{SU}(2)$ (or $\text{U}(2)$), $N_f = 4$ theory (cf.[64]). First, notice that from (1.6) and (1.7) one gets

$$\mathcal{W}(\cdot; \epsilon_1) \xrightarrow{\epsilon_1 \rightarrow 0} -\frac{F(\cdot)}{\epsilon_1}. \quad (2.21)$$

Then, using the above formula and eq. (2.19) with the values of the classical weights expressed in (2.20) one can write the following relation in the case of the $\text{SU}(2)$ theory:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i) &= - \lim_{\epsilon_1 \rightarrow 0} \epsilon_1 \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i; \epsilon_1) \\ &= - \lim_{\epsilon_1 \rightarrow 0} \left(\epsilon_1^2 \mathbf{f}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) + \epsilon_1^2 (\delta_1 + \delta_2 - \delta) \log x \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.22)$$

Analogously, for the $\text{U}(2)$ theory one gets:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{U}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i) &= - \lim_{\epsilon_1 \rightarrow 0} \epsilon_1 \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{U}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i; \epsilon_1) \\ &= - \lim_{\epsilon_1 \rightarrow 0} \left(\epsilon_1^2 \mathbf{f}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) + \epsilon_1^2 (\delta_1 + \delta_2 - \delta) \log x \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} (\mu_1 + \mu_2)(\mu_3 + \mu_4) \log(1 - x). \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

Eq. (2.22) and (2.23) imply that:

$$F_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{U}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i) = F_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i) - \frac{1}{2}(\mu_1 + \mu_2)(\mu_3 + \mu_4) \log(1 - x). \quad (2.24)$$

The expansion of the instanton $\text{SU}(2)$ prepotential can be obtained from eq. (2.22) after using the representation (2.15) of the classical block. The result is the expansion in the bare coupling x :

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i) = & \frac{a^4 + a^2(\mu_1\mu_2 + \mu_3\mu_4) + \mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4}{2a^2} x \\ & + \left[\frac{1}{64a^6} \left(13a^8 + 5(\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4)^2 \right. \right. \\ & + a^6(\mu_1^2 + \mu_2^2 + \mu_3^2 + \mu_4^2 + 16\mu_1\mu_2 + 16\mu_3\mu_4) \\ & + a^4(16\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4 + (\mu_3\mu_4)^2 + (\mu_2\mu_3)^2 + (\mu_2\mu_4)^2 + \mu_1^2(\mu_2^2 + \mu_3^2 + \mu_4^2)) \\ & \left. \left. - 3a^2((\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4)^2 + (\mu_1\mu_3\mu_4)^2 + (\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3)^2 + (\mu_1\mu_2\mu_4)^2) \right) \right] x^2 + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (2.25)$$

Analogously, an expansion of the instanton $\text{SU}(2)$ prepotential with respect to the “renormalized” coupling $q(x)$ may be derived from eq. (2.22) after applying the representation (2.16) of the conformal block:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i) = & a^2 \log \left(\frac{16q(x)}{x} \right) - \frac{1}{4} ((\mu_1 + \mu_2)^2 + (\mu_3 + \mu_4)^2) \log(1 - x) \\ & - \sum_{i=1}^4 \mu_i^2 \log \left(\frac{2}{\pi} K(x) \right) - \lim_{\epsilon_1 \rightarrow 0} \epsilon_1^2 \mathbf{h}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q(x)), \end{aligned} \quad (2.26)$$

where for example up to q^2 :

$$\begin{aligned} - \lim_{\epsilon_1 \rightarrow 0} \epsilon_1^2 \mathbf{h}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q) = & 8a^{-2} \mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_4 q \\ & + \left(4a^{-2} \left[(\mu_3 \mu_4)^2 + (\mu_2 \mu_3)^2 + (\mu_2 \mu_4)^2 + \mu_1^2 (\mu_2^2 + \mu_3^2 + \mu_4^2) \right] \right. \\ & - 12a^{-4} \left[(\mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_4)^2 + \mu_1^2 ((\mu_3 \mu_4)^2 + \mu_2^2 (\mu_3^2 + \mu_4^2)) \right] \\ & \left. + 20a^{-6} (\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_4)^2 \right) q^2 + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (2.27)$$

Expansion (2.25) agrees with the formula obtained from the instanton partition function. To show the consistency of our approach, we plug in the expansion (2.25) in eq. (2.24). The result reproduces in the case of equal masses the expansion of the instanton $\text{U}(2)$ prepotential of ref. [49]:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{U}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i = \mu) = & \frac{a^4 + 6a^2\mu^2 + \mu^4}{2a^2} x \\ & + \frac{13a^8 + 100a^6\mu^2 + 22a^4\mu^4 - 12a^2\mu^6 + 5\mu^8}{64a^6} x^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Let us close this section by remarking that in the intermediate steps of the calculation of eq. (2.26) it appears also the following important formula for the $N_f = 4$, $\text{SU}(2)$ twisted

superpotential:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}(x, a, \mu_i; \epsilon_1) &= -\frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1} \log \left(\frac{16q(x)}{x} \right) \\ &+ \left[\frac{\epsilon_1}{4} + \frac{1}{4\epsilon_1} ((\mu_1 + \mu_2)^2 + (\mu_3 + \mu_4)^2) \right] \log(1-x) \\ &+ \left[\frac{\epsilon_1}{2} - \sum_{i=1}^4 \mu_i + \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \sum_{i=1}^4 \mu_i^2 \right] \log \left(\frac{2}{\pi} K(q) \right) + \epsilon_1 \mathbf{h}_\delta \left[\frac{\delta_3}{\delta_4} \frac{\delta_2}{\delta_1} \right] (q(x)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.28)$$

In [27] the r.h.s. of eq. (2.26) and more precisely its limit for large values of a has been interpreted as the instanton prepotential of the four-dimensional $N_f = 4$, $\text{SU}(2)$ theory written in the renormalized coupling $q(x)$. Probably the same interpretation is valid in the case of the two-dimensional theory determined by $\mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{N_f=4, \text{SU}(2)}$.

3. Four-point classical blocks from TBA for the eCM system

Let us come back to quantum blocks for a while. There exist amazing relationships between conformal blocks on the torus and sphere known as Poghossian identities [24]. In order to spell out these relations quickly and clearly let us modify a little bit the notation and denote by $\mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda}^{\tilde{\lambda}}(q)$ the torus elliptic block and by $\mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \lambda_3 & \lambda_2 \\ \lambda_4 & \lambda_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q)$ the elliptic block on the sphere, where the parameters $\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}, \lambda_i$ are related to the conformal weights in the following way:

$$\Delta \equiv \Delta_\lambda = \frac{1}{4} (Q^2 - \lambda^2), \quad \tilde{\Delta} \equiv \Delta_{\tilde{\lambda}} = \frac{1}{4} (Q^2 - \tilde{\lambda}^2), \quad \Delta_i \equiv \Delta_{\lambda_i} = \frac{1}{4} (Q^2 - \lambda_i^2). \quad (3.1)$$

Additionally, the following parametrization for the central charge is assumed: $c = 1 + 6(b + \frac{1}{b})^2 \equiv 1 + 6Q^2$. In [52] it has been proved that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda}^{\tilde{\lambda}}(q) &= \mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{2} & \frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{2} \\ \frac{b}{2} - \frac{1}{2b} & \frac{Q}{2} \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q) \\ &= \mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{2} - \frac{b}{2} & \frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{2} + \frac{b}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2b} & \frac{1}{2b} \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q) \\ &= \mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{2} - \frac{1}{2b} & \frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{2} + \frac{1}{2b} \\ \frac{b}{2} & \frac{b}{2} \end{smallmatrix} \right] (q), \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

where the q variable is the elliptic nome introduced in (2.6).

Notice, that thanks to the AGT relation (2.10) and eq. (2.5), the elliptic torus block $\mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda}^{\tilde{\lambda}}(q)$ can be replaced with the $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$, $\text{U}(2)$ instanton partition function:

$$\mathcal{H}_{c, \Delta_\lambda}^{\tilde{\lambda}}(q) = \hat{\eta}(q)^{2-2\Delta_{\tilde{\lambda}}} \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q, a, m; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2), \quad (3.3)$$

where

$$\lambda = \frac{2a}{\sqrt{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}}, \quad \tilde{\lambda} = 2\sqrt{\frac{m^2}{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2} + \frac{m}{\sqrt{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}} \left(\frac{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2}{\sqrt{\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}} \right) + \frac{(\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)^2}{4\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}}.$$

Applying eqs. (2.14) and (1.7), one finds that the identities (3.2) and (3.3) give in the limit $b \rightarrow 0$ ($\iff \epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q, a, m; \epsilon_1) - 2\tilde{\delta} \log \hat{\eta}(q) &= h_{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}} \left[\begin{array}{cc} \frac{1}{4}(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{m}{\epsilon_1}(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1})) & \frac{1}{4}(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{m}{\epsilon_1}(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1})) \\ \frac{3}{16} & \frac{3}{16} \end{array} \right] (q) \\ &= h_{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}} \left[\begin{array}{cc} \frac{1}{4}(1 - \frac{m^2}{\epsilon_1^2}) & -\frac{1}{4}\frac{m}{\epsilon_1}(2 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1}) \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \end{array} \right] (q), \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

where $\mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q, a, m; \epsilon_1) = \lim_{\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0} \epsilon_2 \log \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q, a, m; \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ and the classical conformal weights $\tilde{\delta}$, δ and δ_i (written explicitly in (3.4)) are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\delta} &\equiv \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \Delta_{\tilde{\lambda}} = \lim_{\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0} \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1} \Delta_{\tilde{\lambda}} = -\frac{m(m + \epsilon_1)}{\epsilon_1^2}, \\ \delta &\equiv \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \Delta_{\lambda} = \lim_{\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0} \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1} \Delta_{\lambda} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}, \\ \delta_i &\equiv \lim_{b \rightarrow 0} b^2 \Delta_{\lambda_i} = \lim_{\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0} \frac{\epsilon_2}{\epsilon_1} \Delta_{\lambda_i}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, Nekrasov and Shatashvili have found in [57] that the instanton twisted superpotential $\mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(\text{N})}$ computed from the free energy $\log \mathcal{Z}_{\text{inst}}$ of the one-dimensional interacting gas of the $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ $\text{U}(\text{N})$ instanton particles gives the thermodynamic Bethe ansatz [60] for the N -particle eCM system⁷:

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(\text{N})}(q, a, m; \epsilon_1) = \oint_C dz \left[-\frac{1}{2} \varphi(z) \log \left(1 - q \mathcal{Q}(z) e^{-\varphi(z)} \right) + \text{Li}_2 \left(q \mathcal{Q}(z) e^{-\varphi(z)} \right) \right]. \quad (3.5)$$

Here $\varphi(x)$ is the solution of the integral equation:

$$\varphi(x) = \oint_C dy \mathcal{G}(x - y) \log \left(1 - q \mathcal{Q}(y) e^{-\varphi(y)} \right). \quad (3.6)$$

The above solution is determined by the functions \mathcal{Q} , \mathcal{G} and the contour C . In [57] it has been found that

$$\mathcal{Q}(x) = \frac{P(x - m)P(x + m + \epsilon_1)}{P(x)P(x + \epsilon_1)}, \quad P(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{\text{N}} (x - a_i), \quad (3.7)$$

$$\mathcal{G}(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \log \frac{(x + m + \epsilon_1)(x - m)(x - \epsilon_1)}{(x - m - \epsilon_1)(x + m)(x + \epsilon_1)}, \quad (3.8)$$

where m is mass of the adjoint hypermultiplet and a_i , $i = 1, \dots, \text{N}$ are the vev's. The contour C on the complex plane comes from infinity, goes around the points $a_i + k\epsilon_1$,

⁷ $\text{Li}_2(z)$ is a dilogarithm function defined by

$$\text{Li}_2(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k^2} = \int_z^0 \frac{\log(1-t)dt}{t}.$$

$i = 1, \dots, \mathbf{N}$, $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and goes back to infinity. It separates these points and the points $a_i + lm + k\epsilon_1$, $l \in \mathbb{Z}$, $k = -1, -2, \dots$.

Hence, combining (2.16), (3.4) and (3.5) for $\mathbf{N} = 2$ one obtains the following expressions for the two families of the 4-point classical blocks on the sphere:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}} \left[\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{m}{\epsilon_1}(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1})) & \frac{1}{4}(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{m}{\epsilon_1}(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1})) \\ \frac{3}{16} & \frac{3}{16} \end{matrix} \right] (x) = & \left(-\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \left(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \right) \right) \log x \\ & + \left(-\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \left(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \right) \right) \log(1 - x) \\ & + 2 \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \left(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \right) \log(\theta_3(q(x)) \hat{\eta}(q(x))) \\ & - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \log(16q(x)) + \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q(x), \mathbf{a}, m; \epsilon_1) \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}} \left[\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}(1 - \frac{m^2}{\epsilon_1^2}) & -\frac{1}{4} \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} (2 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1}) \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \end{matrix} \right] (x) = & \frac{1}{4} \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \left(2 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \right) \log x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \left(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \right) \log(1 - x) \\ & + 2 \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \left(1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \right) \log(\theta_3(q(x)) \hat{\eta}(q(x))) \\ & - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \log(16q(x)) + \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q(x), \mathbf{a}, m; \epsilon_1), \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

where $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2) = (a, -a)$. Let us emphasize, that the elliptic classical blocks, that so far were known only in the form of power series, in eqs. (3.9) and (3.10) are expressed in terms of the eCM Yang's functional.

Notice, that for $m = 0$ or $m = -\epsilon_1$, the expressions (3.9) and (3.10) give

$$\mathbf{f}_{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}} \left[\begin{matrix} \frac{3}{16} & \frac{3}{16} \\ \frac{3}{16} & \frac{3}{16} \end{matrix} \right] (x) = -\frac{1}{8} \log(x(1-x)) - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \log(16q(x)), \quad (3.11)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}} \left[\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \end{matrix} \right] (x) = -\frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \log(16q(x)), \quad (3.12)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}} \left[\begin{matrix} 0 & \frac{1}{4} \\ \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} \end{matrix} \right] (x) = -\frac{1}{4} \log x - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \log(16q(x)). \quad (3.13)$$

Indeed, if $m \in \{0, -\epsilon_1\}$ then $\mathcal{Q} = 1$ and $\mathcal{G} = 0$ (cf.(3.7)). As a consequence, $\varphi = 0$ and from (3.5) we have $\mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)} = 0$. This completes our proof.

In order to check the consistency of eqs. (3.11)-(3.13) one can expand the right hand

sides making use of the power expansion of the elliptic nome⁸

$$q(x) = \frac{x}{16} \left(1 + \frac{x}{2} + \frac{21x^2}{64} + \frac{31x^3}{128} + \frac{6257x^4}{32768} + \dots \right). \quad (3.14)$$

Using (3.14) one obtains the expansion

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{8} \log(x(1-x)) - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \log(16q(x)) &= \left(-\frac{1}{8} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \right) \log x + \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \right) x + \left(\frac{1}{16} - \frac{13}{64} \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \right) x^2 + \left(\frac{1}{24} - \frac{23}{192} \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \right) x^3 \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{32} - \frac{2701}{32768} \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \right) x^4 + \left(\frac{1}{40} - \frac{31237}{327680} \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \right) x^5 + \dots, \end{aligned}$$

which coincides with the classical block expansion (2.15) with $\delta = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}$ and $\delta_i = \frac{3}{16}$. Analogous checks can be made in the case of eqs. (3.12) and (3.13).

4. Uniformization of 4-punctured sphere and the eCM Yang's functional

The classical Liouville theory is the theory of the conformal factor $\phi(z, \bar{z})$ of the hyperbolic metric on $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$. The conformal factor is a solution to the Liouville equation:

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \phi(z, \bar{z}) = \frac{\mu}{2} e^{\phi(z, \bar{z})}. \quad (4.1)$$

The metric on $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ is determined by the singular behavior of ϕ at the punctures z_1, \dots, z_n . Consider the case of $\mathcal{C}_{g,n}$ being a punctured sphere $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ and choose complex coordinates on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ in such a way that $z_n = \infty$. The existence and the uniqueness of the solution of the equation (4.1) on the sphere with the *elliptic singularities*, namely

$$\phi(z, \bar{z}) = \begin{cases} -2(1 - \xi_j) \log |z - z_j| + O(1) & \text{as } z \rightarrow z_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, n-1, \\ -2(1 + \xi_n) \log |z| + O(1) & \text{as } z \rightarrow \infty, \end{cases} \quad (4.2)$$

$$\text{where } \xi_i \in \mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \{0\} \text{ for all } i = 1, \dots, n \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i < n-2, \quad (4.3)$$

were proved by Picard [65, 66] (see also [67] for a modern proof). That solution can be interpreted as the conformal factor of the complete, hyperbolic metric on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n} = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}\}$ with conical singularities characterized by opening angles $\theta_j = 2\pi\xi_j$

⁸This expansion can be found from the inverse $x(q) = \theta_2^4(q)/\theta_3^4(q)$ of the nome function where the theta functions are of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_2(q) &= 2q^{\frac{1}{4}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^{n(n+1)} = 2q^{\frac{1}{4}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{2n})(1 + q^{2n})^2, \\ \theta_3(q) &= 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^{n^2} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{2n})(1 + q^{2n-1})^2. \end{aligned}$$

at punctures z_j . A solution of the Liouville equation is known to exist also in the case of *parabolic singularities* which correspond to $\xi_j \rightarrow 0$. In that case the asymptotic behavior of the Liouville field is:

$$\phi(z, \bar{z}) = \begin{cases} -2 \log |z - z_j| - 2 \log |\log |z - z_j|| + O(1) & \text{as } z \rightarrow z_j, \\ -2 \log |z| - 2 \log |\log |z|| + O(1) & \text{as } z \rightarrow \infty. \end{cases} \quad (4.4)$$

The central statement in classical Liouville theory is the famous *uniformization theorem* firstly proved by Poincaré and Koebe (1907). The uniformization theorem states that every Riemann surface \mathcal{C} is conformally equivalent:

- (i) to the Riemann sphere $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$;
- (ii) or to the upper half plane $\mathbb{H} = \{\tau \in \mathbb{C} : \Im \tau > 0\}$;
- (iii) or to a quotient of \mathbb{H} by a discrete subgroup $G \subset \mathrm{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R}) \equiv \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})/\mathbb{Z}_2$ acting as Möbius transformations.

From this theorem it follows the existence of a meromorphic function

$$\lambda: \mathbb{H} \ni \tau \rightarrow z = \lambda(\tau) \in \mathbb{H}/G \cong \mathcal{C},$$

called *uniformization*. The map λ is explicitly known only for the 3-punctured sphere [68] and in a few very special, symmetric cases with higher number of punctures [69]. In particular, an explicit construction of this map for the 4-punctured sphere is a longstanding and still open problem.

One possible method to construct λ in the case of the n -punctured sphere $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ with parabolic singularities has been proposed by Poincaré. This construction is based on the relation of the uniformization problem to a certain Fuchs equation on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$. If λ is the uniformization of $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$, the inverse map

$$\omega = \lambda^{-1}: \mathcal{C}_{0,n} \ni z \rightarrow \tau(z) \in \mathbb{H}$$

is a multi-valued function with branch points z_j and with branches related by the elements T_k of the group G . One can show that the Schwarzian derivative of ω is a holomorphic function on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ of the form [69]:

$$\{\omega, z\} = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{2}}{(z - z_k)^2} + \frac{2c_k}{z - z_k} \right), \quad (4.5)$$

$$\{\omega, z\} \stackrel{z \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{z^2} + \mathcal{O}(z^{-3}), \quad (4.6)$$

where the so-called *accessory parameters* c_k satisfy the relations

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} c_k = 0, \quad \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (4c_k z_k + 1) = 1, \quad (4.7)$$

On the other hand it is a well known fact [69, 70] that if $\{\psi_1, \psi_2\}$ is a fundamental system of normalized ($\psi_1\psi_2' - \psi_1'\psi_2 = 1$) solutions of the Fuchs equation

$$\psi(z)'' + \frac{1}{2} \{\omega, z\} \psi(z) = 0 \quad (4.8)$$

with $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ monodromy with respect to all punctures then up to a Möbius transformation the inverse map is

$$\omega = \frac{\psi_1}{\psi_2}.$$

Therefore, it is possible to reformulate the uniformization problem of $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ as a kind of Riemann-Hilbert problem for the Fuchs equation (4.8), where the elements $T_k \in G$ correspond to monodromy matrices M_k around each puncture z_k . An applicability of the Fuchs equation to the calculation of the inverse map ω depends on our ability to calculate the accessory parameters and to choose an appropriate fundamental system of normalized solutions. In the case of three punctures the accessory parameters are determined by the equations (4.7). In the case in which $n > 3$ the Liouville theory on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ becomes helpful, because eqs. (4.7) do not provide enough constraints in order to calculate the c_k 's.

The connection with LFT comes out from the existence of the Poincaré-Klein metric $ds_{\mathbb{H}}^2 = d\tau d\bar{\tau} / (\Im \tau)^2$ on the upper half plane \mathbb{H} . The pull back:

$$\omega^* ds_{\mathbb{H}}^2 = \frac{1}{(\Im \tau)^2} \left| \frac{\partial \tau}{\partial z} \right|^2 dz d\bar{z} = e^{\phi(z, \bar{z})} dz d\bar{z}$$

is a regular hyperbolic metric on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$, conformal to the standard flat metric $dz d\bar{z}$ on \mathbb{C} . The conformal factor $\phi(z, \bar{z})$ satisfies the Liouville equation on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ with the asymptotic condition (4.4). One can show that the energy-momentum tensor $T(z)$ of this solution is equal to one half of the Schwarzian derivative of the inverse map:

$$T(z) \equiv -\frac{1}{4} (\partial_z \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \partial_z^2 \phi = \frac{1}{2} \{\omega, z\}. \quad (4.9)$$

This allows to calculate all accessory parameters once the classical solution ϕ is known. However, the problem of finding solutions of the Liouville equation seems to be at least as hard as the problem of constructing the map ω . For this reason, the application of Liouville theory at this level does not lead to an essential simplification and is not much helpful.

So far we discussed the uniformization problem of the n -punctured sphere with parabolic singularities. However, one can consider a more general problem of the sphere with n elliptic singularities characterized by real parameters $\xi_j > 0$. The notion of accessory parameters can be introduced in terms of the energy-momentum tensor of the solution $\phi(z, \bar{z})$ with the asymptotic condition (4.2). In the present case the energy-momentum tensor is of the form [70]:

$$T(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left(\frac{\delta_k}{(z - z_k)^2} + \frac{c_k}{z - z_k} \right), \quad (4.10)$$

$$T(z) \stackrel{z \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \frac{\delta_n}{z^2} + \mathcal{O}(z^{-3}). \quad (4.11)$$

The accessory parameters c_k obey

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} c_k = 0, \quad \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (\delta_k + c_k z_k) = \delta_n, \quad (4.12)$$

and as before they are not fully determined for $n > 3$. In eqs. (4.10), (4.11) and (4.12) the parameters $\delta_j = \frac{1}{4}(1 - \xi_j^2)$, $j = 1, \dots, n$ are the classical conformal weights. The multi-valued function ω is still of interest. Having $T(z)$ given by (4.10) one can consider the Fuchs equation

$$\psi(z)'' + T(z) \psi(z) = 0, \quad (4.13)$$

which monodromy group is a subgroup of $\text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$. The classical result (4.9) holds, where $\omega = \psi_1/\psi_2$ is the ratio of two linearly independent solutions ψ_1, ψ_2 of the eq. (4.13). Then, the map ω can be computed if one can calculate the accessory parameters in the eq. (4.13) and select fundamental solutions with a suitable monodromy.

For almost a century the problem of accessory parameters has been unsolved until the appearance of the solution proposed by Polyakov (as reported in refs. [70–72]). The so-called Polyakov conjecture states that the properly defined and normalized Liouville action functional evaluated on the classical solution $\phi(z, \bar{z})$ is the generating functional for the accessory parameters:

$$c_j = -\frac{\partial S_{\text{cl}}[\phi]}{\partial z_j}. \quad (4.14)$$

This formula was derived within the path integral approach to the quantum Liouville theory by analyzing the quasi-classical limit of the conformal Ward identity [71]. In the case of parabolic singularities on the n -punctured Riemann sphere a rigorous proof has been given by Zograf and Takhtajan [72]. Alternative proofs, valid both in the case of parabolic and general elliptic singularities, have been proposed in [70, 73]. The Polyakov conjecture can be proved also in the case of the so-called hyperbolic singularities representing “holes” with geodesic boundaries [74].

The next essential step paving the way for an explicit uniformization of the 4-punctured sphere was done by brothers Zamolodchikov [4]. Studying the classical limit of the 4-point function of the quantum Liouville theory they argued that the classical Liouville action on a sphere with four elliptic (parabolic) singularities can be expressed in terms of the classical Liouville action for three singularities and the 4-point classical block.

Indeed, the 4-point function of the Liouville primary operators located at $\infty, 1, x, 0$ is expressed as an integral over the continuous spectrum of the theory of s -channel conformal blocks and DOZZ 3-point functions:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_4}(\infty, \infty) \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_3}(1, 1) \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_2}(x, \bar{x}) \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_1}(0, 0) \right\rangle = \\ \int_{\frac{Q}{2} + i\mathbb{R}^+} d\alpha \, C(\alpha_4, \alpha_3, \alpha) C(Q - \alpha, \alpha_2, \alpha_1) \left| \mathcal{F}_{1+6Q^2, \Delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) \right|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

Let

$$\mathbf{1}_{\Delta, \Delta} = \sum_I (|\nu_{\Delta, I}\rangle \otimes |\nu_{\Delta, I}\rangle) (\langle \nu_{\Delta, I}| \otimes \langle \nu_{\Delta, I}|)$$

be the operator that projects onto the space spanned by the states belonging to the conformal family with the highest weight Δ . The correlation function with the $\mathbf{1}_{\Delta,\Delta}$ insertion factorizes into a product of holomorphic and anti-holomorphic factors:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_4}(\infty, \infty) \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_3}(1, 1) \mathbf{1}_{\Delta,\Delta} \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_2}(x, \bar{x}) \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_1}(0, 0) \right\rangle = \\ C(\alpha_4, \alpha_3, \alpha) C(Q - \alpha, \alpha_2, \alpha_1) \mathcal{F}_{1+6Q^2, \Delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) \mathcal{F}_{1+6Q^2, \Delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \Delta_3 & \Delta_2 \\ \Delta_4 & \Delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (\bar{x}). \end{aligned} \quad (4.16)$$

Assuming a path integral representation for the l.h.s. and heavy conformal weights $\Delta, \Delta_i \sim \frac{1}{b^2}$ one should expect in the limit $b \rightarrow 0$ the following asymptotic behavior

$$\left\langle \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_4}(\infty, \infty) \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_3}(1, 1) \mathbf{1}_{\Delta,\Delta} \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_2}(x, \bar{x}) \mathbf{V}_{\alpha_1}(0, 0) \right\rangle \sim e^{-\frac{1}{b^2} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x; \delta)}. \quad (4.17)$$

$S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x; \delta)$ is the 4-point classical Liouville action, i.e. the properly defined Liouville action functional evaluated on the classical solution of the Liouville equation (4.1) on $\mathcal{C}_{0,4}$ with the asymptotic conditions (4.4) or (4.2). The parameters $\delta, \delta_i, i = 1, \dots, 4$ are the classical conformal weights defined by $\Delta = \frac{1}{b^2} \delta$ and $\Delta_i = \frac{1}{b^2} \delta_i$, where $\delta, \delta_i = \mathcal{O}(1)$. On the other hand, one can calculate this limit for the DOZZ coupling constants obtaining [4, 75]

$$C(\alpha_4, \alpha_3, \alpha) C(Q - \alpha, \alpha_2, \alpha_1) \sim e^{-\frac{1}{b^2} (S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta) + S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta, \delta_2, \delta_1))}. \quad (4.18)$$

$S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta)$ is the 3-point classical Liouville action which in the case of two parabolic or elliptic weights given respectively by $\delta_1 = \delta_2 = \frac{1}{4}$ and $\delta_i = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \xi_i^2)$, $i = 1, 2$ and one hyperbolic weight $\delta = \frac{1}{4} + p^2$ with $p \in \mathbb{R}$ reads as follows [4, 75]:

$$\begin{aligned} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta) = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \xi_1 - \xi_2) \log \mu + \sum_{\sigma_2, \sigma_3 = \pm} F \left(\frac{1 - \xi_1}{2} + \sigma_2 \frac{\xi_2}{2} + i \sigma_3 p \right) \\ - \sum_{j=1}^2 F(\xi_j) + H(2ip) + \pi |p| + \text{const}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.19)$$

where

$$F(x) = \int_{1/2}^x dy \log \frac{\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(1-y)}, \quad H(x) = \int_0^x dy \log \frac{\Gamma(-y)}{\Gamma(y)}.$$

It follows that for $b \rightarrow 0$ the conformal block should have the exponential behavior (1.2). Hence

$$S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x; \delta) = S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta) + S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta, \delta_2, \delta_1) - f_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) - \bar{f}_\delta \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (\bar{x}). \quad (4.20)$$

In the semiclassical limit the l.h.s. of formula (4.15) takes the form $e^{-\frac{1}{b^2} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta_2, \delta_1; x)}$, where

$$S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta_2, \delta_1; x) \equiv S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta_2, \delta_1; \infty, 1, x, 0).$$

The r.h.s. of (4.15) is in this limit determined by the saddle point approximation

$$e^{-\frac{1}{b^2} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x)} \approx \int_0^\infty dp e^{-\frac{1}{b^2} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x; \delta)}$$

where $\delta = \frac{1}{4} + p_s(x)^2$ and the saddle point Liouville momentum $p_s(x)$ is determined by

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial p} S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x; \frac{1}{4} + p^2)|_{p=p_s} = 0. \quad (4.21)$$

One thus gets the factorization

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta_2, \delta_1; x) &= S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta_s(x)) + S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_s(x), \delta_2, \delta_1) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{f}_{\delta_s(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) - \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{\delta_s(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (\bar{x}) \end{aligned} \quad (4.22)$$

first obtained in [4] and as its consistency condition⁹ the *classical bootstrap equations*:

$$\begin{aligned} &S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_3, \delta_s(x)) + S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_s(x), \delta_2, \delta_1) - \mathbf{f}_{\delta_s(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) - \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{\delta_s(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (\bar{x}) \\ &= S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_4, \delta_1, \delta_t(x)) + S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_t(x), \delta_2, \delta_3) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{f}_{\delta_t(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_1 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_3 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (1-x) - \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{\delta_t(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_1 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_3 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (1-\bar{x}) \\ &= 2\delta_2 \log x\bar{x} + S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_1, \delta_3, \delta_u(x)) + S_{\mathbb{L}}^{\text{cl}}(\delta_u(x), \delta_2, \delta_4) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{f}_{\delta_u(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_1 & \delta_4 \end{smallmatrix} \right] \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) - \bar{\mathbf{f}}_{\delta_u(x)} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_1 & \delta_4 \end{smallmatrix} \right] \left(\frac{1}{\bar{x}} \right), \\ &\quad \delta_t(x) = \delta_s(1-x), \quad \delta_u(x) = \delta_s \left(\frac{1}{x} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.23)$$

Turning to the problem of uniformization of the 4-punctured sphere one sees, that having (4.20) one can apply the Polyakov conjecture (4.14) and calculate the accessory parameter of the appropriate Fuchsian equation (cf.[78]). Surprisingly, the twisted superpotential/Yang's functional appears in that context.

According to (2.16) and (3.4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_{\delta} \left[\begin{smallmatrix} \delta_3 & \delta_2 \\ \delta_4 & \delta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x) &= \left(\frac{1}{4} - \delta_1 - \delta_2 \right) \log x + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \delta_2 - \delta_3 \right) \log(1-x) \\ &\quad + (3 - 4(\delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3 + \delta_4)) \log \theta_3(q(x)) \\ &\quad + \left(\delta - \frac{1}{4} \right) \log(16q(x)) + 2 \frac{m(m + \epsilon_1)}{\epsilon_1^2} \log \hat{\eta}(q(x)) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q(x), a, m; \epsilon_1), \end{aligned} \quad (4.24)$$

where $\delta = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{a^2}{\epsilon_1^2}$ and

$$\delta_4 = \delta_1 = \frac{3}{16} = \frac{1}{4} (1 - (\frac{1}{2})^2), \quad \delta_3 = \delta_2 = \frac{1}{4} (1 - \xi^2), \quad \xi = \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} (1 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1})}, \quad (4.25)$$

or

$$\delta_4 = \delta_1 = \frac{1}{4}, \quad \delta_3 = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{m^2}{\epsilon_1^2} \right), \quad \delta_2 = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \left(2 + \frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \right). \quad (4.26)$$

⁹The classical bootstrap equations have been numerically verified for punctures [76] and for punctures and up to two elliptic singularities [77].

Consider the classical block (4.24) with the weights given by (4.25). It can be used to construct the 4-point classical Liouville action:

$$S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x) = S_L^{\text{cl}}\left(\frac{3}{16}, \frac{1}{4}(1 - \xi^2), \frac{1}{4}(1 - \xi^2), \frac{3}{16}, x; \frac{1}{4} + p_s(x)^2\right), \quad 0 < \xi < \frac{1}{2},$$

corresponding to the classical solution on $\mathcal{C}_{0,4}$ with four elliptic singularities characterized by $\xi_4 = \xi_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\xi_3 = \xi_2 = \xi$. The condition $0 < \xi < \frac{1}{2}$, which is fulfilled for $\frac{m}{\epsilon_1} \in (-1, 0) \setminus \{-\frac{1}{2}\}$, ensures the existence of such solution¹⁰ (cf.(4.3)). The saddle point momentum $p_s(x)$ is determined by the equation (4.21), where $p = ia/\epsilon_1$. The Polyakov conjecture in the case under consideration reads

$$\begin{aligned} c_2(x) &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x) \\ &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial p} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x, \frac{1}{4} + p^2) \Big|_{p=p_s(x)} \frac{\partial p_s(x)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x, \frac{1}{4} + p^2) \Big|_{p=p_s(x)} \\ &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} S_L^{\text{cl}}(\delta_i, x, \frac{1}{4} + p^2) \Big|_{p=p_s(x)} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathbf{f}_{\frac{1}{4}+p^2} \left[\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{4}(1-\xi^2) & \frac{1}{4}(1-\xi^2) \\ \frac{3}{16} & \frac{3}{16} \end{matrix} \right] (x) \Big|_{p=p_s(x)} \\ &= \frac{4\pi K(1-x)p_s(x)^2 - 4\pi E(1-x)p_s(x)^2 - 4\xi^2 E(x) + E(x)}{8(x-1)xK(x)} \\ &\quad - \frac{\pi E(x)K(1-x)p_s(x)^2}{2(x-1)xK(x)^2} - \frac{4x-1-4\xi^2}{16(x-1)x} \\ &\quad + \frac{2m(m+\epsilon_1)}{\epsilon_1^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \log \hat{\eta}(q(x)) + \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}(q(x), a, m; \epsilon_1) \Big|_{\frac{ia}{\epsilon_1}=p_s(x)}, \end{aligned}$$

where (4.20), (4.19) and (4.24), (4.25) have been used. The symbol $E(x)$ above denotes the complete elliptic integral of the second kind. This calculation shows an amazing relation between the accessory parameter and the instanton part of the $\mathcal{N} = 2^*, \text{U}(2)$ twisted superpotential/Yang's functional. This calculation reveals also the relation between the vev a and the so-called *geodesic length functions* (cf.[40]):

$$a = -i\epsilon_1 p_s(x) = -i\frac{\epsilon_1 \sqrt{\mu}}{4\pi} \ell_s(x).$$

Indeed, let us recall that the classical solution $\phi(z, \bar{z})$ on $\mathcal{C}_{0,n}$ describes a unique hyperbolic geometry with singularities at the locations of conformal weights. For elliptic, parabolic and hyperbolic weights one gets conical singularities, punctures and holes with geodesic boundaries, respectively [75, 79]. In the latter case the (classical) conformal weight δ is related to the length ℓ of the corresponding hole by

$$\delta = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{\mu}{4} \left(\frac{\ell}{2\pi} \right)^2, \quad (4.27)$$

where the scale of the classical configuration is set by the condition $R = -\frac{\mu}{2}$ imposed on the constant scalar curvature R . In the case of 4 singularities at the standard locations

¹⁰Unfortunately, the configuration of the four elliptic singularities with $\xi_4 = \xi_3 = \xi_2 = \xi_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ for which we have found the classical block (3.11) does not fulfil Picard's inequality (4.3).

$0, x, 1, \infty$ there are three closed geodesics $\Gamma_s, \Gamma_t, \Gamma_u$ separating the singular points into pairs $(x, 0|1, \infty)$, $(x, 1|0, \infty)$ and $(x, \infty|0, 1)$ respectively. Since the spectrum of DOZZ theory is hyperbolic, the singularities corresponding to the saddle point weights $\delta_i(x)$ are geodesic holes. One may expect that these weights are related to the lengths ℓ_i of the closed geodesics Γ_i in the corresponding channels:

$$\delta_i(x) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{\mu}{4} \left(\frac{\ell_i(x)}{2\pi} \right)^2, \quad i = s, t, u. \quad (4.28)$$

As a final remark let us point out that the conjectured formula (4.28) has strong numerical support, cf.[76].

5. Conclusions

In this work we have derived expressions for the two families of the 4-point classical blocks on the sphere. We have found, that the most non-trivial parts of the classical blocks are encoded by the Nekrasov-Shatashvili formula for the instanton part of the $\mathcal{N} = 2^* \text{U}(2)$ twisted superpotential/eCM Yang's functional. Next, we have used one of these new expressions of the classical blocks to calculate the accessory parameter of the Fuchsian uniformization of the 4-punctured sphere and have found its relation to $\mathcal{W}_{\text{inst}}^{\mathcal{N}=2^*, \text{U}(2)}$. Thirdly, we have established a relationship between the 4-point classical block on the sphere and the $N_f = 4 \text{SU}(2)$ (or $\text{U}(2)$) twisted superpotential and further used this relationship to re-derive the Seiberg-Witten prepotential from the classical block.

There are possible extensions of the present work. Firstly, it would be interesting to apply the AGT duality and the Bethe/gauge correspondence to learn something new about the matrix models. Secondly, one can continue the studies of the triple correspondence: $2\text{dCFT}/\mathcal{N} = 2$ gauge theories/quantum integrable systems going beyond $\text{SU}(2)$ theories, i.e. looking at the generalization of the AGT duality to the correspondence between 2d conformal Toda and 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2 \text{SU}(N)$ gauge theories [30, 31].

As a final remark let us stress that it seems to be an interesting task to study possible overlaps of our results and those in papers [61, 80].

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